

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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15

ACTION AF-06

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TO USIA WASHDC

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USIAC

FOR: IOP/M, IBS, IAA, IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

MARCH 27: NORTHERN-STATES-OWNED NEW NIGERIAN EDITORIAL
("REGICIDE") DEPLORES ASSASSINATION OF KING FAISAL, PAYS
TRIBUTE TO HIS STATUS AS ARAB LEADER.
SAYING FAISAL WAS THE "ROCK ON WHICH ARABB UNITY" WAS BUILT,
EDITORIAL SAID: "HIS ABRUPT DEPARTURE FROM THE SCENE MAY LEAD
TO UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS AT HOME AND AFFECT THE PROSPECT OF
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ALREADY DECLINING AFTER THE FAILURE
OF DR. KISSINGERS LATEST MISSION....

"SUSPICIONS ARE BOUND TO ARISE AS TO WHETHER HIS MURDER MAY BE
INTERNATIONALLY INSPIRED, BECAUSE A DIFFERENT SAUDI ARABIA COULD
TORPEDO OPEC. WHATEVER THE TRUTH, THE NEW KING WOULD BEST
SERVE SAUD ARABIA AND THE ARAB WORLD IN GENERAL BY MAINTAINING
FAISALS FIRMNESS AND MODERATION. IN OIL, THE OPEC NATIONS
HAVE FOUND AN UNBEATABLE WEAPON: AND A MEANS OF ESCAPING FROM
THE CLUTCHES OF WESTERN IMPERIALISM. HIS LEADERSHIP ROLE AND
INFLUENCE WERE SUCH THAT HE WAS NAMED AS MAN OF THE YEAR BY
TIME MAGAZINE--THE ULTIMATE AMERICAN ACCOLADE."
HEDGES

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NNN

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